

M: 35-156
M: 35-157
M: 35-158

Subdivisions built by Edmund Bennett and designed by Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon in
Montgomery County, Maryland

MIHP#s

New Mark Commons M: 26-40
Carderock Springs M: 29-59
Kenwood Park M: 35-156
Potomac Overlook M: 35-157
Flint Hill M: 35-158

Montgomery County, MD

Constructed between 1956 and 1973

Private access

Spanning three decades, the collaboration between home builder Edmund J. Bennett and architects Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon (hereafter referred to as KLC) was consecrated by an award of honor jointly conferred by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in 1961 for "excellence in their cooperative efforts to create better homes and communities for Americans."¹ This award was only in its second year; its first recipients had been Eichler Homes teaming with Anshen & Allen and Jones & Emmons. In the past few years, these Southern California partnerships have received a considerable amount of scholarly and popular attention. Although he built a much smaller number of homes, Edmund Bennett can be considered as the "Eichler of the East" and his output deserves the same type of scrutiny. Indeed the Bennett/KLC collaboration received sustained local and national attention. In addition to extensive and very positive coverage on the part of the home building, architecture, and shelter press, the subdivisions it produced were popular among architecture students and foreign delegations visiting Washington.²

¹ "AIA-NAHB cites architect-builder team," *House and Home* (April 1961), 184.

² In 1960, a delegation of seventy Swedish architects visited Washington, at the time of a Stockholm

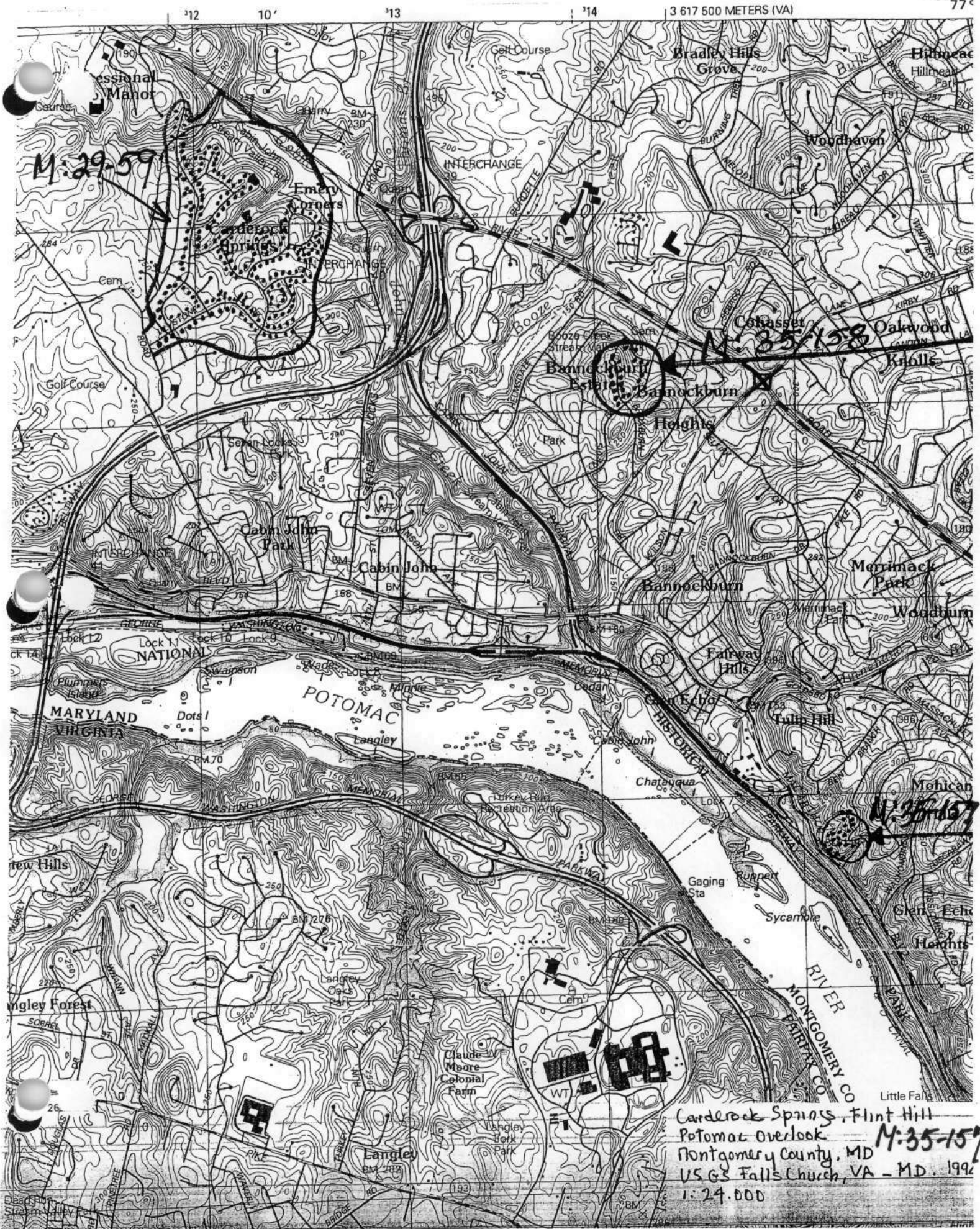
M: 35-156
M: 35-157
M: 35-158

Bennett/KLC homes belong to a second generation of modernist tract houses in American suburbia: as needs of World War II veterans had been fulfilled and incomes were rising, these were larger, had more amenities, and cost considerable more than tract houses built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Meeting a specific demand, readily identifiable but presenting many variations, Bennett/KLC homes were not inexpensive. However, designed to preserve natural scenery, and avoid waste of space and materials, they were reasonably priced for the quality of community and family life they procured. They were built solidly and have aged well, with the proper maintenance.

The Bennett/KLC homes and subdivisions present one of the most extensive experiments in "situated modernism" in the United States, an experiment which the Washington, D.C. suburbs, with their wooded, steeply sloped lots nestled in the stream valley system of tributaries of the Potomac River, helped nurture. This was a tight and long-lasting collaboration that allowed for the establishment of a consistent syntax for planning and design. Edmund Bennett did not "invent" a new type of landscape or house. He took best advantage of the experience acquired by other home builders who started their businesses in the late 1940s and improved upon models which Donald Lethbridge and Arthur Keyes had devised for two Northern Virginia builders.

"SEE FRR Mont 23 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION."

exhibition at the AIA headquarters, were taken to visit Flint Hill (see Frederic Gutheim, "Stockholm Architectural Exhibit Offers Lessons to Area Planners," *Washington Post*, October 21, 1960, B3. See also *Washington Post*, October 13, 1962, D13, showing South African representatives of the International Union of Building Societies and Savings Association visiting Flint Hill, guided by Thornton W. Owen, chairman of the board of the Perpetual Building Association. According to a display ad carrying the title "On their recent trip here, what's the first thing Australia's leading builders wanted to see? The monuments? In a way, Edmund J. Bennett's Carderock Springs," published in the *Washington Post*, September 4, 1965, E3, "Edmund J. Bennett hosted leading home builders from Dusseldorf, Brussels and London." See *Washington Post*, November 10, 1962, D3 showing architect Arnold Kronstadt and his American University class in home construction at Carderock Springs and *Washington Post*, March 9, 1963, D7 showing Donald Lethbridge conducting a tour of Carderock Springs for a University of Virginia class in urban design.



Carderock Springs, Flint Hill
Potomac Overlook
Montgomery County, MD
U.S.G.S Falls Church, VA - MD. 1992
1:24,000



Potomac Overlook Subdivision

M:35-157

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

View from Wiscasset Road (6609 Valley View
Court, in foreground)

#1



Potomac Overlook Subdivision
Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda
Montgomery County, MD

M:35-157

Isabelle Gournay

November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

View from Valley Court (Highview model,
6608 Valley View Court in center,
6602 Valley View Court, Valleyview
model in back)

#2



6601 Valley View Court
Potomac overlook

M:35-157

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda
Montgomery County, MD

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N-3N 1 2 19 39

Isabelle Goumay
November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Valleyview model built 1957, sheer
elevation (patio below terrace enclosed)

#3



6604 River Crest Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda

Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Goumaig

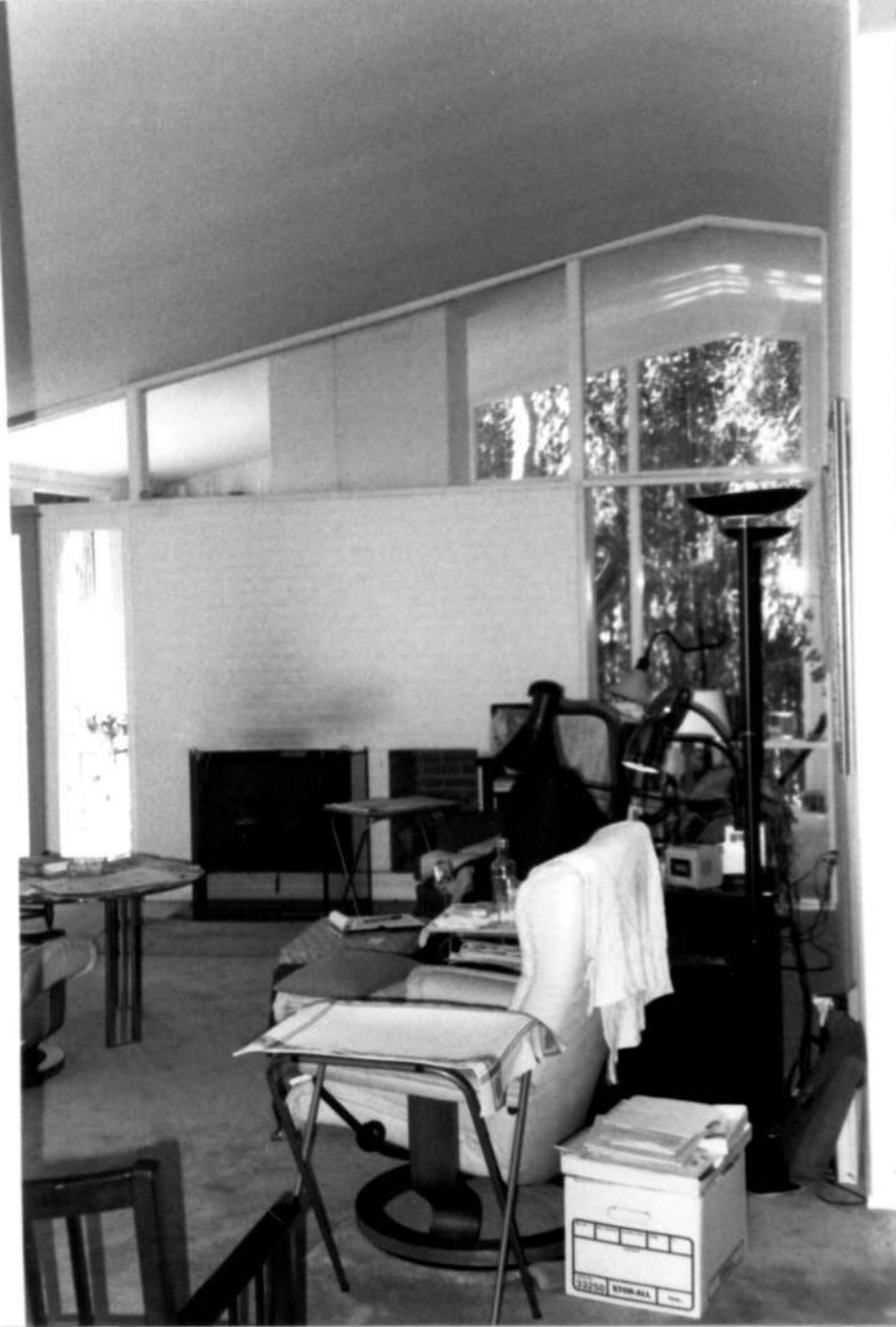
November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N-3 NN2 1943

John Matthews House, view of recreation room

#45



6604 River Crest Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Goumay
November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

John Matthews House, living room showing fireplace
wall

#5

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N3N-121942



6604 River Crest Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda

Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

John Matthews House, carpenter

#6



6605 River Crest Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda

Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Goumaz

November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Riverview model, built 1957, street elevation
(original carport)

#1



6608 Valley View Court
Potomac Overlook

M:35-157

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda
Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay
November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

DEC03 P563
65 0211 N-3NN21941

Highview model, Street elevation (original carport)

#4



6609 Valley View Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda

Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Highview model, Street elevation (carport added)

#9



6613 Valley View Court

M:35-157

Potomac Overlook

Glen Echo Heights District, Bethesda

Montgomery County, MD

Isabelle Gournay

November 2003

Maryland Historic Trust

Valleyview model, built 1957, street elevation
(original carport)

#10